

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 08 2015

RE: S.R. No. 116
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred S.R.
No. 116 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN
INTERISLAND FERRY SYSTEM SIMILAR TO THE FERRY SYSTEM OPERATED
BY WASHINGTON STATE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request the
Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of
establishing an interisland ferry system similar to the ferry
system operated by Washington State and report to the Legislature
prior to the 2016 Regular Session.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Transportation, Hawaii Farm Bureau
Federation, and Hawaii Shippers Council. Your Committee received
comments on this measure from the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that an interisland ferry system can
serve as an efficient alternative for transporting passengers and
cargo. Washington State Ferries, which is part of the Washington
State Department of Transportation, operates the largest ferry
system in the United States. With twenty-two ferries traversing
the Puget Sound and its inland waterways, Washington State Ferries
serves as a marine highway for commercial users, tourists, and
daily commuters.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requesting the Department of Transportation to also look at ferry systems in other jurisdictions in conducting the study;
- (2) Amending its title in accordance with its amended purpose;
- (3) Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to assist the Department of Transportation in the preparation of its report to the Legislature on findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 116, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 116, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Transportation,


CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Transportation
TRA

Bill / Resolution No.:* SR 1116	Committee Referral: TRA	Date: 3/31/15		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310</div> <div style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313</div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	✓			
HARIMOTO, Breene (VC)	✓			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.	✓			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	✓			
ESPERO, Will	✓			
INOUE, Lorraine R.	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	✓			
KOUCHI, Ronald D.				✓
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	7			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small;"> Original File with Committee Report Yellow Clerk's Office Pink Drafting Agency Goldenrod Committee File Copy </div>				

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INTERISLAND FERRY SYSTEM
SIMILAR TO THE FERRY SYSTEMS OPERATED BY WASHINGTON STATE
AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, unlike other states, Hawaii does not enjoy the
2 benefit of being linked to other states, cities, or towns via
3 the federal interstate highway system or a network of
4 interconnected state and local highways; and

5
6 WHEREAS, air transportation is currently the only efficient
7 means of travel between Hawaii's major islands; and

8
9 WHEREAS, an interisland ferry system can serve as an
10 efficient alternative for transporting passengers and cargo; and

11
12 WHEREAS, Washington State Ferries, which is part of the
13 Washington State Department of Transportation, operates the
14 largest ferry system in the United States; and

15
16 WHEREAS, with twenty-two ferries traversing the Puget Sound
17 and its inland waterways, Washington State Ferries serves as a
18 marine highway for commercial users, tourists, and daily
19 commuters; and

20
21 WHEREAS, Washington State Ferries employs approximately
22 eighteen hundred people and is Washington's most popular tourist
23 attraction; and

24
25 WHEREAS, other jurisdictions with successful ferry systems
26 include Alaska, New Zealand, and Australia/Tasmania; now,
27 therefore,

28
29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
31 that the Department of Transportation is requested to study the
32 feasibility of establishing an interisland ferry system similar



1 to the ferry systems operated by Washington State and other
2 jurisdictions; and
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
5 Transportation is requested to emphasize compliance of an
6 interisland ferry system with the State's environmental
7 protection laws, including chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
8 and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
11 Transportation is requested to identify appropriate routes and
12 harbors for an interisland ferry system; and
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
15 Transportation is requested to consider:
16

17 (1) Potential costs and revenues of an interisland ferry
18 system;
19

20 (2) Financing options for an interisland ferry system,
21 including the establishment of rates or fees to
22 address operating costs; and
23

24 (3) Parameters of an interisland ferry system, including
25 vessel design and speed, passenger capacity, cargo
26 capacity, automobile capacity, and compatibility with
27 harbor infrastructure; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
30 Transportation is requested to report its findings and
31 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
32 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
33 the Regular Session of 2016; and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
36 Bureau assist the Department of Transportation in the
37 preparation of its report to the Legislature on findings and
38 recommendations, including any proposed legislation; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
42 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

